Rochester, N.Y. Oct 2 1832

My dear Sister Mary

Yours of 8 ult. letter was duly received & gave me much satisfaction — I do not think of making a reply upon the small paper but I mean to write you a long letter upon the finest paper & the finest quill I possess & publish it to the world. If the Lord will I hope soon to be enabled to write you a long & comfortable letter — I feel encouraged in your strong & to comfort me with your sympathy — that the time that the Lord will be graciously pleased to grant me to be with you & my dear friends will not be long — I shall in the mean time be exceedingly anxious to hear from you & to know how you are getting along in your studies — I am very much engaged in reading & writing to my brother & sister in Utica — I have given up the idea of visiting Brother B. & family this fall — I have come to the conclusion & I get home feel that it is necessary for me as soon as consistent & I get home that I may be in a measure settled & enabled to devote a season of study — The Lady with whom I board was taken ill on the 1st of October & I feel that I must stay here as long as I can and not only other things but to assist — I have now been in the school about two weeks — I shall endeavor — I hope now — to be in the school about two weeks — I shall endeavor to finish so as to be able to leave as soon as it is — I do not like to finish so as to leave myself that I am not with confidence, in the prosecution of a friend — and my friends — I feel that I shall be able to do it in my own time & to the satisfaction of the Lord — I thank you much for your kind desires, also your willingness to — I should like to believe to me dear friends as it respects them — I will not take up my whole time to the benefit of pagans & idolaters — I feel that it would be almost an unpardonable crime in me to leave my friends to oppose my going — However I am clear but consent to the Lord's will and praise to God — the Lord's will rather than all my enemies — I thought that I am in a great [illegible] manner the subject of prayer and that all the dear friends are [illegible] yet their petitions are [illegible] at the throne of our Heavenly Father and in answer to them blessings are sent down upon me in the [illegible] Yes my dear Sister God is encouraging me & the [illegible] raising up precious friends & blessing the [illegible] of his precious promise I will [illegible] fulfillment of his precious promise I will [illegible] [illegible] valuable — but when I look at the other side of the picture & see the [illegible] — my friends are very dear & their

provided for us by the Captain of our Salvation, then we are prepared to go forth & battle and labour with success: otherwise it will be as much as we can do to keep our post & hold with making us any conquests at all — Oh where will the close & precious walk of God when their eyes upon their privileges, and take possession of their blood bought inheritance — and set the crown upon the head of the anointed — But let me for bear, for I appear to set myself up for your teacher — forgive me my dear sirs & pray for I am a babe — and need in all things to be taught, but we are commanded to be good stewards of the grace of God — I hope soon to see you, you must beg you to be strengthened and if God can make use of me to in any measure strengthen the hands of any of my dear friends — we will rejoice together & give him all the glory — for it will all belong to him —

Your questions for want of place and time I shall have to defer till I see you — I am a little sorry to see you as soon as the 19 or 20 but perhaps not till the 26 or 27 — till then

believe me your affec. Bro. & Sister in Christ
M. Preston.

Miss
Mary Portsmouth
Aug. 3.
1832

Miss
Mary L. Smith
Glassenbury
Somerset